Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd., a Government of Orissa undertaking. Regular production of Ruby is expected to comence during the current financial year.

Loss in the Public Sector Fertilizer Industry

836. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is loss of more than Rs. 400 crores in the Public Sector Fertilizer Industry;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore;

(c) the names of the Public Sector Fertilizer Plants, which are running under huge losses; and

(d) what measures Government propose to contemplate to improve the working of this Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) No, Sir. The alleged loss is highly exaggerated.

(b) The main reasons for the losses during 1986-87 are low capacity utilisation due to equipment and power problems, accumulation of stocks of fertilizers on account of low offtake due to unfavourable weather conditions; extra costs incurred in holding the stocks and rebates etc. offered in excess of the margins fixed by the Govt.

(c) As per the provisional annual accounts for 1986-87, the units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) (except Ramagundam), Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) and the Thal unit of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. are incurring losses.

(d) Schemes have been drawn up for revamping and modernisation of the loss making plants of FCI; for the HFC plants, the company has been asked to appoint consultants for preparing the detailed project reports for revamping. Captive power plants have been either installed or are under installation, wherever necessary. The losses of PPL and the Thal unit of RCF are due mainly to accumulation of stocks, which are expected to be liquidated when sales pick up.

Decline in Production of Pulses

837. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses has been declining in various States of the country at present;

(b) if so, how far does it compare with the production in past two years, with details of each variety of pulses;

(c) the reasons for the declining of production of pulses in the country;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to boost the production of pulses to meet the requirement of the country indigenously; and

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose, if any, to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENRDA MAKWANA): (a) The long-term growth rate in production of pulses has been showing a declining trend in some of the States like Bihar, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. However, at the all-India level, the overall production has been showing an increasing trend.